

Science Extended Grade Level Expectations



For Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

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Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development

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Expanded Levels of Support/Early Entry Points Development Committee--February 2009

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INTRODUCTION

History and Purpose of Alaska's Extended Grade Level Expectations (ExGLEs)

In 1993, Alaskans embarked on a campaign to bring higher standards and accountability to their public school system. The cornerstone of this effort was the development of content standards in ten core subject areas. The standards represent what Alaskans want students to know and be able to do as a result of their public schooling.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that students with disabilities must be provided access to the general education content standards and curriculum. Teams of educators reviewed the general education standards for use by students with significant cognitive disabilities and developed Alternate Performance Standards. The purpose of these standards and assessments were to ensure that students with significant cognitive disabilities were being provided access to the general education curriculum in a way that was meaningful. Students are assessed annually on their progress toward attaining these goals using an Alternate Assessment.

To fulfill the requirements of the federal law known as No Child Left Behind Act of 2001(NCLB), the Department of Education and Early Development (EED) continued this work of articulating clear expectations for student learning by developing the Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) for the general student population. Following this work, EED brought together content specialists and special educators in 2005 to develop Extended Grade Level Expectations (content standards) and Proficiency Level Descriptors (descriptions of achievement) for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

The Extended Grade Level Expectations (ExGLEs) consist of foundational skills that are linked to the general education content. The content is reduced in complexity to provide entry points to the general education Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) while still providing challenging academic expectations for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The ExGLEs provide a blueprint for the development of the test items for the Alternate Assessment, and the ExGLEs provide guidance to teachers in developing and aligning curriculum and instruction. For students who cannot perform the skills listed in the ExGLEs, Early Entry Points are provided. Early Entry Points are the prerequisite skills that lead to the Extended Grade Level Expectations.

In 2010, the state began an analysis, and revision, of the content standards (Grade Level Expectations) to determine if the standards adequately prepare students for college and career. As part of its review of the Common Core standards, Alaska compared its Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) for reading, writing, and mathematics to the Common Core standards. These changes in the general education standards will prompt a review, and possible revision, of the Extended Grade Level Expectations for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Early Entry Points have been added to this document following the work of a committee and development of assessment items. They consist of pre-requisite skills and are for students who have difficulty accessing the ExGLEs. The early entry points provide strategies for teaching the grade level skills identified in the ExGLEs.

For the alternate assessment two types of items were created: Standard items and Expanded Level of Support (ELOS) items. The ELOS items were created to ensure participation and allow the assessor to ascertain a student's level of independence. These items also allow maximum participation for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities and provide information for assessors on what level of support is necessary for the student to interact with the assessment materials. The ELOS items were developed using the Early Entry Points as guidelines.

Response Methods and Presentation Modes

There are a wide variety of communication methods used by students who are eligible to take the alternate assessment. The ExGLEs use the terms read and write, but it is understand that IEP teams determine the response methods, and may include, but are not limited to the following: speech, large print, Braille, augmentative communications, sign language, touch and/object cues, computer access, pictures, vocal responses (cries, utterances, etc.), written responses (handwritten, computer generated, etc.), eye gaze, body movements, tactile symbols, calculators, keyboards and adapted keyboards.

A variety of presentation modes are allowed. Presentation modes may include, but are not limited to: speech, print, large print, sign language, touch and object cues, tactile symbols, Braille, computer with voice output, individualized phrases to elicit eye gaze or other body responses, and pictures.

Sample Pages Showing How to Read the ExGLE Tables (pages 9 and 10)

The Extended Grade Level Expectations (ExGLEs) are grouped by the content areas: Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science. Each page contains all the grade bands: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, and 9-10. A bolded statement called the stem communicates the main curriculum focus and is followed by a list of the extended grade level expectations. The skills move in a continuum across the grade bands.

The numbering system follows that of the Grade Level Expectations. The grade band is shown in brackets followed by the performance standard number and the ExGLE number. The following page contains the Early Entry Points. Early Entry Points are not numbered but are listed beginning with the early symbolic level to the pre-symbolic and awareness levels. See the Glossary for an explanation of the symbolic levels. Refer to the following page for a visual layout of the Extended Grade Level Expectations and Early Entry Points.

Changes to the ExGLEs since the last version are highlighted.

SAMPLE Pages Showing How to Read the ExGLE Pages

Reading Performance Standards Extended Grade Level Expectations For Grades 3-10

Each ExGLE includes a bolded statement called the "stem." Each stem is the same or similar across the grades for a given Extended GLE and is meant to communicate the main curriculum and instructional focus of the Extended GLE across the grades.

The first row of each table includes a heading that refers to the content standard, and the second row includes a heading that refers to the performance standard. (The content standard is a broad statement of what students should know; the performance standards state what students should know and be able to do at ages 5-7, 8-10, 11-14, and 15-18.) The second box includes the complete performance standards.

Some Extended GLEs are repeated with no changes across grade levels. They are marked with asterisks. This indicates the Extended GLE assumes a variety of text and increasing complexity to indicate the growth in the Extended GLE.

The number indicates the Performance Standard and the Extended Grade Level Expectation number. Thus [9/10] 4.1-1 represents Performance Standard 4.1, and the first Extended GLE for that Performance Standard for grades 9 and 10.

		<u> </u>	
	The student uses strategies to decode o	r comprehend meaning of words in text.	
names, letter/sound relationships, initial/fina	and comprehend text: knowledge of phonics , alphabet, all consonants, vowels, letter patterns; pictures and visu	and alphabetic principle, e.g., recognition of letter shapes al cues; sight recognition of high frequency vocabulary prior knowledge and context; text structure, e.g., read le	words; word structure, e.g., root words, prefixes,
Grades 3/4	Grades 5/6	Grades 7/8	Grades 9/10 /
The student uses strategies to decode or comprehend meaning of words in text by	The student uses strategies to decode or comprehend meaning of words in text by	The student uses strategies to decode or comprehend meaning of words in text by	The student uses strategies to decode or comprehend meaning of words in text by
[3/4] 1.1, 2.1-1 Identifying signs and symbols	[5/6] 2.1-1 Identifying or reading simple sight	[7/8] 3.1-1 Reading a simple sentence of 4-5, or	[9/10] 4.1-1 Decodes unfamiliar words using
[3/4] 1.1, 2.1-2 Identifying at least 10 letter-sound relationships	words	more, words	knowledge of letter-sound relationships, phonemic awareness, and word structure (base word, prefix,
[3/4] 1.1, 2.1-3 Blending at least 5 sounds to make words	[5/6] 2.1-2 Reading simple sentences of 2-3 words	[7/8] 3.1-2 Obtaining information using text features including pictures, (illustrations for text), visual cues (e.g., chapter headings, bolded or italicized	suffix)
[3/4] 1.1, 2.1-4 Identifying own name in print		text)	
[3/4] 1.1, 2.1-5 Displaying an understanding of print directionality (L)		[7/8] 3.1-3 Identifying or reads words of increasing complexity (e.g., 5 or more letters, or 2 or more syllables)	

Some Extended GLEs have been identified as Local. They are for local assessment and will not be on a state assessment.

Early Entry Points describe the least complex skills and are prerequisites to the skills being assessed. They provide a range of options at which a student with a disability can access the learning standard.

SAMPLE Pages Showing How to Read the ExGLE Pages

Early Entry Points for topics/skills first introduced in Grades 3/4	Early Entry Points for topics/skills first introduced in Grades 5/6	Early Entry Points for topics/skills first introduced in Grades 7/8	Early Entry Points for topics/skills first introduced in Grades 9/10
[3] 1.1-1; [4] 2.1-1 Identifying signs and symbols Responds to one sign or symbol (e.g., logo, symbol of favorite restaurant)Make movement to cause effect (e.g., press button, pointing, eye/head movement)Attend to signs/symbolsAttend to the presenter. [3] 1.1-2; [4] 2.1-2 Identifying at least 10 letter-sound relationships Correctly identifies five or more letters of the alphabet and the sound they makeCorrectly identifies one letter of the alphabet and the sound itImitates/repeats with cue when looking at letterIdentifies letters as separate from pictures, numerals, or other objectsMake movement to cause effect (e.g., press button, pointing, eye/head movement)Attend to letters-sounds (Braille, ASL, written text)Attend to the presenter.	Refer to previous grade's ExGLEs and Early Entry Points to teach the prerequisite skills for this grade band.	Refer to previous grade's ExGLEs and Early Entry Points to teach the prerequisite skills for this grade band. [7/8] 3.1-2 Obtaining information using text features including pictures, (illustrations for text), visual cues (e.g., chapter headings, bolded or italicized text) -Demonstrates ability to handle books (e.g., knows how to turn pages) -Identify title of book when asked -Points to words in books -Identify pictures in books	Refer to previous grade's ExGLEs and Early Entry Points to teach the prerequisite skills for this grade band.
Topics and skills are shown in the first grade band they are introduced in; these are listed mostly in grades 3-4	Occasionally, a new t introduced in other gr	rade bands g b	a student is not currently working at rade level, refer to the previous grade and's ExGLEs or early entry points to each the skill.

Extended Grade Level Expectations for SCIENCE

Organization of Science Extended Grade Level Expectations

There are 7 science strands with sub-strands which are the same across all grade levels.

The strand notation of SA for example indicates: S for Science, A for Content Standard A. In strand SB, the S stands for Science, the B stands for Content Standard B, and so on through Strand G.

Grades 3-10

Content Standard	Strand	Sub-Strands
A1 Science as Inquiry and Process	SA-Understand the processes and	SA1 – Investigate problems, design and conduct repeatable scientific
	applications of scientific inquiry.	investigations, defend scientific arguments.
		SA2 – Scientific processes require integrity, logical reasoning,
		skepticism, openness, communication, peer review.
		SA3 – Understand culture, local knowledge, history, interaction with
		the environment, local applications provide opportunity for
		understanding scientific concepts and global issues.

Content Standard	Strand	Sub-Strands
B1 -Concepts of Physical Science	SB -Understand the concepts, models,	SB1 -Understand the concepts, models, theories, universal principles,
	theories, universal principles, and facts	and facts that explain the physical world.
	that explain the physical world.	SB2-Understand the characteristic properties of matter and the
		relationship of these properties to their structure and behavior.
		SB3-Understand the interactions between matter and energy, including
		physical, chemical, and nuclear changes, and the effects of these
		interactions on physical systems.
		SB4-Understand motions, forces, their characteristics, and
		relationships, and natural forces and their effects.

Content Standard	Strand	Sub-Strands
C1-Concepts of Life Science	SC -Understand the concepts, models,	SC1 -Understand how science explains changes in life forms over time,
	theories, facts, evidence, systems, and	including genetics, heredity, the process of natural selections, and
	processes of life science.	biological evolution.
		SC2 -Understand the structure, function, behavior, development, life,
		cycles, and diversity of living organisms.
		SC3-Understand that all organisms are linked to each other and their
		physical environments through the transfer and transformation of
		matter and energy.

Content Standard	Strand	Sub-Strands	
D1-Concepts of Earth Science	SD - Understand the concepts, processes,	SD1- Understand Earth's geochemical cycles.	
	theories, models, theories, evidence, and	SD2 -Understand the origins, ongoing processes, and forces that shape	
	systems of earth and space sciences.	the structure, composition, and physical history of the Earth.	
		SD3 -Understand the cyclical changes controlled by energy from the	
		sun and by Earth's position and motion in our solar system.	
		SD4 -Understand the theories regarding the evolution of the universe.	

Content Standard	Strand	Sub-Strands
E1-Science and Technology	SE -Understand the relationships among	SE1-Understand how scientific knowledge and technology are used in
	science, technology, and science.	making decisions about issues, innovations, and responses to problems
		and everyday events.
		SE2-Understand that solving problems involves different ways of
		thinking, perspectives, and curiosity that lead to the exploration of
		multiple paths that are analyzed using scientific, technological, and
		social merits.
		SE3-Understand how scientific discoveries and technological
		innovations affect and are affected by our lives and cultures.
	<u> </u>	innovations affect and are affected by our rives and cultures.

Content Standard	Strand	Sub-Strands
F1-Cultural, Social, Personal	SF -Understand the dynamic	SF1 -Understand interrelationships among individuals, cultures,
Perspectives, and Science	relationships among scientific, cultural,	societies, science, and technology.
	social, and personal perspectives.	SF2 -Understand that some individuals, cultures, and societies use other
		beliefs and methods in addition to scientific methods to describe and
		understand the world.
		SF3-Understand the importance of recording and validating cultural
		knowledge.

Content Standard	Strand	Sub-Strands
G1-History and Nature of Science	SG -Understand the history and nature of	SG1-Understand historical perspectives of scientific explanations
	science.	demonstrate that scientific knowledge changes over time, building on
		prior knowledge.
		SG2-Understand that the advancement of scientific knowledge
		embraces innovation and requires empirical evidence, repeatable
		investigations, logical arguments, and critical review in striving for the
		best possible explanations of the natural world.
		SG3-Understand that scientific knowledge is ongoing and subject to
		change as new evidence becomes available through experimental
		and/or observational confirmation(s).
		SG4-Understand that advancements in science depend on curiosity,
		creativity, imagination, and a broad knowledge base.

Students develop an understanding of the processes of science used to investigate problems, design and conduct repeatable scientific investigations, and defend

Students develop an understanding of the processes and applications of scientific inquiry.

A1-Science as Inquiry and Process

scientific arguments.

SA

SA1

SA2 Students develop an understand	ling that the processes of science require integ	rity, logical reasoning, skepticism, openness,	communication, and peer review.
	ling that culture, local knowledge, history, and		
knowledge,	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		·
<u> </u>	opportunity for understanding scientific conce	pts and global issues.	
Grades 3/4	Grades 5/6	Grades 7/8	Grades 9/10
The student demonstrates	The student demonstrates	The student demonstrates	The student demonstrates
understanding of the processes of	understanding of the processes of	understanding of the processes of	understanding of the processes of
science by	science by	science by	science by
[3/4] SA1.1 Attending to a task in order	[5/6] SA1.1 Providing descriptive	[7/8] SA1.1 Recording observations (L)	[9/10] SA1.1 Recording, describing, and
to make an observation (L)	information about what is seen/heard/felt (L)		classifying observations (L)
The student demonstrates an		The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an
understanding of the attitudes and	The student demonstrates an	understanding of the attitudes and	understanding of the attitudes and
approaches to scientific inquiry by	understanding of the attitudes and	approaches to scientific inquiry by	approaches to scientific inquiry by
	approaches to scientific inquiry by		
[3/4] SA2.1 Asking questions about what		[7/8] SA2.1 Asking questions that	[9/10] SA2.1 Responding appropriately t
can be observed (e.g., "Are days shorter	[5/6] SA2.1 Asking questions to gain	demonstrate understanding of cause-and-	questions based on
in winter?") (L)	information (e.g., "Are leaves on a tree all the same shape?") (L)	effect (L)	observation/information (L)
The student demonstrates an		The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an
understanding that interactions with	The student demonstrates an	understanding that interactions with	understanding that interactions with
the environment provide an	understanding that interactions with	the environment provide an	the environment provide an
opportunity for understanding	the environment provide an	opportunity for understanding	opportunity for understanding
scientific concepts by	opportunity for understanding scientific concepts by	scientific concepts by	scientific concepts by
[3/4] SA31.1 Indicating differences in		[7/8] SA3.1 Identifying self as interacting	[9/10] SA3.1 Observing what plants
local environmental conditions (e.g.,	[5/6] SA3.1 Observing features in the	with the local environment (L)	and/or animals live in the local
hot/cold, wet/dry, light/dark, large/small,	local environment (e.g., weather, land		environment (L)
loud/quiet) (L)	formations, commonly found animals)		
	(L)		

No Early Entry Points developed for this ExGLE

	SCIENCE Extended Grade Level Expectations (Assessed in grades 4, 8, and 10)				
	B1-Concepts of Physical Science				
SB Students develop an understanding of the concepts, models, theories, universal principles, and facts that explain the physical world.					
	ing of the characteristic properties of matter a				
	ing that energy appears in different forms, can		an be transferred		
	em to another, may be unavailable for use, ar				
	ing of the interactions between matter and end	ergy, including physical, chemical, and nucle	ar changes, and the effects of these		
interactions on physical systems		1 1 . 4	66		
	ing of motions, forces, their characteristics an				
Grades 3/4	Grades 5/6	Grades 7/8	Grades 9/10		
The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an		
understanding of the structure and	understanding of the structure and	understanding of the structure and	understanding of the structure and		
properties of matter by	properties of matter by	properties of matter by	properties of matter by		
[3/4] SB1.1 Identifying the basic	[5/6] SB1.1 Using simple descriptors	[7/8] SB1.1 Using simple descriptors	[9/10] SB1.1 Identifying how matter can		
characteristics of common objects (e.g., a	such as color, size, shape, etc. to relate	such as color, odor, texture, size, shape,	be composed of different substances (e.g.,		
rock is hard, water spills)	information about the properties of matter	etc. to relate information about the	cement is made up of gravel and water)		
Tock is hard, water spins)	information about the properties of matter	properties of matter	(ID)		
The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an	properties of matter	(1D)		
understanding of how energy can be	understanding of how energy can be	The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an		
transformed, transferred, and	transformed, transferred, and	understanding of how energy can be	understanding of how energy can be		
conserved by (L-4)	conserved by (L-4)	transformed, transferred, and	transformed, transferred, and		
	conserved by (2 1)	conserved by (L-4)	conserved by (L-4)		
[3/4] SB2.1 Demonstrating that electricity	[5/6] SB2.1 Identifying that objects need				
can be turned on and off by flipping a	energy (e.g., a television needs electricity,	[7/8] SB2.1 Identifying familiar electrical	[9/10] SB2.1 Describing the ways in		
switch	cars need gas)	devices	which objects get energy (e.g., changing		
	,		the batteries in a CD player)		
The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an			
understanding of the interactions	understanding of the interactions	understanding of the interactions	The student demonstrates an		
between matter and energy and the	between matter and energy and the	between matter and energy and the	understanding of the interactions		
effects of these interactions on systems	effects of these interactions on systems	effects of these interactions on systems	between matter and energy and the		
by	by	by	effects of these interactions on systems		
			by		
[3/4] SB3.1 Identifying and naming two	[5/6] SB3.1 Identifying and naming the	[7/8] SB3.1 Identifying the physical			
states of matter of water (liquid and ice)	states of matter of water (i.e., ice, liquid,	changes commonly found in the	[9/10] SB3.1 Identifying an object as a		
	steam)	environment (e.g., ice melts, leaves burn)	liquid, solid, or gas		
	The student demonstrates an				
understanding of motions, forces, their	The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an		
characteristics, relationships, and	understanding of motions, forces, their	understanding of motions, forces, their	understanding of motions, forces, their		
effects by (L-4)	characteristics, relationships, and	characteristics, relationships, and	characteristics, relationships, and		
F2/41 CD 4.1 D	effects by (L-4)	effects by (L-4)	effects by (L-4)		
[3/4] SB4.1 Demonstrating ways objects	FFICE CD 4.1 OL				
can move (e.g., push, pull, drop, etc.)	[5/6] SB4.1 Observing and describing the				
	directional movement of objects				

	[7/8] SB4.1 Identifying forces in the	[9/10] SB4.1 Observing and describing
	environment (e.g., what objects move	the movement of an object by its position,
	faster, what objects are harder to push)	direction, and speed

	Larry Line	- J - 00	
Early Entry Points for topics/skills first introduced in Grades 3/4	Early Entry Points for topics/skills first introduced in Grades 5/6	Early Entry Points for topics/skills first introduced in Grades 7/8	Early Entry Points for topics/skills first introduced in Grades 9/10
[3/4] SB1.1 Identifying the basic characteristics of common objects (e.g.,	Refer to previous grade's ExGLEs and Early Entry Points to teach the	Refer to previous grade's ExGLEs and Early Entry Points to teach the	Refer to previous grade's ExGLEs and Early Entry Points to teach the
characteristics of common objects (e.g., a rock is hard, water spills) Given colored photos of rock and glass of water pouring, the student will identify which is solid and liquid – student can identify by pointing, eye gaze, etc. Given actual rock and water pouring, the student will identify which is solid and liquid- student can identify by pointing, eye gaze, etc. Given a variety of common objects the student will identify which is hard, soft, rough, smooth, wet, dry- when presented to feel with their hand a familiar hard object such as a rock, block and water, the student will indicate which is hard and which is wet When touched by different objects such as hard, soft, rough, wet the student will respond differently to the different objectsWhen presented with different objects the student will visually track the object when moved When presented with an object the student will respond by looking at or turning toward the object [3/4] SB2.1 Demonstrating that electricity can be turned on and off by flipping a switch	Early Entry Points to teach the prerequisite skills for this grade band.	Early Entry Points to teach the prerequisite skills for this grade band.	Early Entry Points to teach the prerequisite skills for this grade band.

Manipulates buttons or switch to		
activate an electrical device such as tape		
recorder, CD player, TV remote, blender,		
etc.		
Identifies light/dark when light is turned		
on and off		
Uses vision or hearing to track light or		
sound, vibrating activity of an electrical		
device when it is turned on and off		
Responds when lights or sounds are		
turned on and off		
turned on and on		
[3/4] SB3.1 Identifying and naming two		
states of matter of water (liquid and		
ice)		
Identifies water		
Identifies ice		
Reacts to feel of water and ice		
reducts to feel of water and fee		
[3/4] SB4.1 Demonstrating ways objects		
can move (e.g., push, pull, drop, etc.)		
Is able to move body parts- move your		
arm and/or leg		
Is able to move an object		
Identifies objects as moving or not		
moving		
When given an object the student will		
demonstrate push, pull, drop		
Identifies that the way to move a		
stationary object is by giving it a push or		
a pull.		
Responds to movement (e.g., tracks		
moving object, smiles when pushed in		
rolling chair)		
	l l	

C1 Concents	of I ifo	Caiomao
C1-Concepts	or Life	Science

SC Students develop an understanding of the concepts, models, theories, facts, evidence, systems, and processes of life science.

Students develop an understanding of how science explains changes in life forms over time, including genetics, heredity, the process of natural selection, and biological

evolution.

SC2 Students develop an understanding of the structure, function, behavior, development, life cycles, and diversity of living organisms.

SC3 Students develop an understanding that all organisms are linked to each other and their physical environments through the transfer and transformation of matter and

Students develop an understanding that all organisms are linked to each other and their physical environments through the transfer and transformation of matter and energy.				
Grades 3/4	Grades 5/6	Grades 7/8	Grades 9/10	
The student demonstrates an understanding of how science explains changes in life forms over time, including genetics, heredity, the process of natural selection, and biological evolution by	The student demonstrates an understanding of how science explains changes in life forms over time, including genetics, heredity, the process of natural selection, and biological evolution by	The student demonstrates an understanding of how science explains changes in life forms over time, including genetics, heredity, the process of natural selection, and biological evolution by	The student demonstrates an understanding of how science explains changes in life forms over time, including genetics, heredity, the process of natural selection, and biological evolution by	
[3/4] SC1.1 Identifying that parents of one species give birth to offspring of the same species (e.g., bears have bear cubs)	[5/6] SC1.1 Identifying that organisms differ from one species to another (e.g., cats to dogs)	[7/8] SC1.1 Identifying similarities and differences among organisms (e.g., dogs with and without spots)	[9/10] SC1.1 Identifying characteristics that are inherited, passed down from parents (e.g., hair color, eye color)	
The student demonstrates an understanding the structure, function, behavior, development, life cycles, and diversity of living organisms by	The student demonstrates an understanding the structure, function, behavior, development, life cycles, and diversity of living organisms by	The student demonstrates an understanding the structure, function, behavior, development, life cycles, and diversity of living organisms by	The student demonstrates an understanding the structure, function, behavior, development, life cycles, and diversity of living organisms by	
[3/4] SC2.1 Matching plants and animals to their habitats (e.g., fish live in water, birds live in trees)	[5/6] SC2.1 Identifying how habitats meet the needs of plants and animals (e.g., plants get nourishment from the soil)	[7/8] SC2.1 Sequencing birth, growth, and death as part the of life cycle of the same plant or animal	[9/10] SC2.1 I Identifying the purpose of different animal adaptations (e.g., why do seals have a layer of blubber)	
The student demonstrates an understanding that all organisms are linked to each other and their physical environments through the transfer and transformation of matter and energy by	The student demonstrates an understanding that all organisms are linked to each other and their physical environments through the transfer and transformation of matter and energy by	The student demonstrates an understanding that all organisms are linked to each other and their physical environments through the transfer and transformation of matter and energy by	The student demonstrates an understanding that all organisms are linked to each other and their physical environments through the transfer and transformation of matter and energy by	
[3/4] SC3.1 Identifying living vs. non-living things	[5/6] SC3.1 Identifying that all organisms need food	[7/8] SC3.1 Identifying that plants need sunlight to grow	[9/10] SC3.1 Identifying that plants are eaten by animals, some animals eat only plants, (herbivores), some animals eat plants and animals (omnivores), and some animals eat other animals (carnivores)	

Early Entry Points for topics/skills first	Early Entry Points for topics/skills first	Early Entry Points for topics/skills first	Early Entry Points for topics/skills first
introduced in Grades 3/4	introduced in Grades 5/6	introduced in Grades 7/8	introduced in Grades 9/10
[3/4] SC1.1 Identifying that parents of	Refer to previous grade's ExGLEs and	Refer to previous grade's ExGLEs and	Refer to previous grade's ExGLEs and
one species give birth to offspring of	Early Entry Points to teach the	Early Entry Points to teach the	Early Entry Points to teach the
	prerequisite skills for this grade band.	prerequisite skills for this grade band.	prerequisite skills for this grade band.
cubs)			
the same species (e.g., bears have bear cubs) Identifies own parentsGiven a pair of animals, a parent and baby, the student will identify which is the parent and which is the baby based on sizeMatch with objects or pictures a human baby with parentsMatches objects or pictures of baby animals with parentsResponds to own parentsResponds to animals [3/4] SC2.1 Matching plants and animals to their habitats (e.g., fish live in water, birds live in treesIdentifies features such as trees, water, in a habitatIs able to place animals in basic habitats (fish in water, people in house)Identifies animals [3/4] SC3.1 Identifying living vs. non-living things	prerequisite skills for this grade band. [5/6] SC3.1 Identifying that all organisms need food Given an animal and a non-living object the student will indicate that they would feed the animal either real or pretend food items Identifies food vs. nonfoodIdentifies different food itemsIndicates awareness of meal timesReaches towards desired food items	[7/8] SC2.1 Sequencing birth, growth, and death as part the of life cycle of the same plant or animal Identify the correct object when asked which is the sprout/seedling, mature plant and dead plant, and the three stagesIdentify the young plant, mature plant, dead plantGiven a choice between a plant and another object will identify which item is a plantLooks at plants and other objectsTracks objects as they are moved ("Look at the plant; Where is the plant?") [7/8] SC3.1 Identifying that plants need sunlight to grow Identifies plantsIdentifies the sunWhen shown two options a dark place and a sunny place the student will indicate the best place to grow a plantUses vision to track light or show awareness of light	[9/10] SC2.1 Identifying the purpose of different animal adaptations (e.g., why do seals have a layer of blubber) Identifies purpose of basic body parts (eyes for seeing, ears for hearing, and nose for smelling)Identifies body parts of different animalsIdentifies own personal body parts (eyes, ears, legs, feet, hands, etc.)Responds to touch, sound, smell, sight
Identifies living or non-living characteristics (e.g., "Which one of these eats?")		Responds to light and dark	
Identifies plants and animalsIdentifies which is alive given a choice between living (e.g., fish, puppy, bird) and non-living objects (e.g., rock)Identifies self and/or othersResponds to touch, sight, sound, smells			

D1-Concepts of Earth Science				
SD1 Students develop an understanding of Earth's geochemical cycles.				
SD2 Students develop an understandi	ng of the origins, ongoing processes, and for	ces that shape the structure, composition, and	physical history of the Earth.	
SD3 Students develop an understandi	ing of the cyclical changes controlled by ener	gy from the sun and by Earth's position and I	notion in our solar system.	
SD4 Students develop an understandi	ng of the theories regarding the evolution of	the universe.		
Grades 3/4	Grades 5/6	Grades 7/8	Grades 9/10	
The student demonstrates an				
understanding of geochemical cycles by				
[3/4] SD1.1 Identifying soil as separate from rocks and plants	[5/6] SD1.1 Describing characteristics of rocks	[7/8] SD1.1 Identifying that soil supports the growth of plants	[9/10] SD1.1 Identifying that smaller rocks come from the weathering and breaking up of bigger rocks (ID)	
[3/4] SD1.2 Identifying types of weather (e.g., hot, cold, wet) The student demonstrates an	[5/6] SD1.2 Identifying types of weather relating to seasons The student demonstrates an	[7/8] SD1.2 Identifying seasonal characteristics (e.g., it snows in winter, days are shorter in winter)	[9/10] SD1.2 Relating states of water to weather (gas → cloud, liquid → rain, solid → snow)	
understanding of the forces that shape	understanding of the forces that shape	The student demonstrates an	Solid Silow)	
Earth by	Earth by	understanding of the forces that shape Earth by	The student demonstrates an understanding of the forces that shape Earth by	
[3/4] SD2.1 Identifying a variety of	[5/6] SD2.1 Distinguishing water from	[7/0] CD2 1 []	Earth by	
Earth's features (e.g., rivers, lakes, mountains)	land on a map	[7/8] SD2.1 Identifying that earth features can change (e.g., volcanoes erupt)	[9/10] SD2.1 Identifying that water is a force of change (e.g., heavy rain causes	
The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an	landslides)	
understanding of cycles influenced by energy from the sun and by Earth's position and motion in our solar system by	understanding of cycles influenced by energy from the sun and by Earth's position and motion in our solar system by	understanding of cycles influenced by energy from the sun and by Earth's position and motion in our solar system by	The student demonstrates an understanding of cycles influenced by energy from the sun and by Earth's position and motion in our solar system	
[3/4] SD3.1 Identifying night and day	[5/6] SD3.1 Identifying that seasons repeat each year in a pattern	[7/8] SD3.1 Identifying the earth, sun, and moon	by	
The student demonstrates an understanding of the theories regarding the origin and evolution of the universe by	The student demonstrates an understanding of the theories regarding the origin and evolution of	The student demonstrates an understanding of the theories regarding the origin and evolution of	[9/10] SD3.1 Identifying characteristics of the solar system (e.g., moon revolves around the earth)	
the universe by	the universe by	the universe by	The student demonstrates an	
[3/4] SD4.1 Recognizing and using			understanding of the theories	
instruments of magnification (e.g., magnifying glass, binoculars) (L)	[5/6] SD4.1 Recognizing and using instruments of magnification (e.g.,	[7/8] SD4.1 Recognizing and using instruments of magnification (e.g.,	regarding the origin and evolution of the universe by	
	magnifying glass, binoculars) (L)	magnifying glass, binoculars, telescopes) (L)	[9/10] SD4.1 Recognizing and using instruments of magnification (e.g.,	

	magnifying glass, binoculars, telescopes) (L)
--	---

Early Entry Points for topics/skills first introduced in Grades 3/4 Early Entry Points for topics/skills first introduced in Grades 5/6 Early Entry Points for topics/skills first introduced in Grades 5/6 introduced in Grades 7/8 introduced in Grades 9/10 [3/4] SD1.1 Identifying soil as separate Refer to previous grade's ExGLEs and Refer to p	
	a d
[3/4] SD1 1 Identifying soil as separate Refer to previous grade's FxGLFs and Refer t	1
[5/4] SD1.1 Identifying son as separate Rejer to previous grade s ExoEEs and Rejer to previous grade s ExoEEs and	ria
from rocks and plants Early Entry Points to teach the Early Entry Points to teach the Early Entry Points to teach the	
prerequisite skills for this grade band. prerequisite skills for this grade band. prerequisite skills for this grade band.	d.
Identifies soil, rocks	
Separates rocks from soil [7/8] SD3.1 Identifying the earth, sun,	
Touches soil, touches rocks (responds and moon	
to feeling of rock and soil)	
Digs in soil, plays with rocksWhen given a choice of pictures or	
objects the student will identify the earth,	
[3/4] SD1.2 Identifying types of sun and moon	
weather (e.g., hot, cold, wet)Matches pictures of the moon, sun,	
earth	
Matches picture-to-picture weatherUses vision to track light or show	
symbols awareness of light	
Matches picture to current weatherUses vision to see distant objects	
Responds to different weather	
conditions (e.g., puts on coat for cold	
weather)	
Identifies weather (e.g., sun, rain, snow)	
Describes daily weather (hot/cold,	
sunny/cloudy, rain/snow/dry)	
Responds to hot and cold	
Responds to weather conditions when	
taken outside	
[3/4] SD2.1 Identifying a variety of	
Earth's features (e.g., rivers, lakes,	
mountains)	
Responds to or identifies different	
textures	
Identifies rocks	
Identifies soil	

Identifies and distinguishes between		
landscapes (e.g., mountains/hills; rivers/		
lakes)		
Responds to different places in the		
environment		
Recognizes the difference between land		
and water		
[3/4] SD3.1 Identifying night and day		
Identifies patterns and routines in day		
and night activities- go to bed at night, go		
to school in the day		
Responds to common daily cues that		
indicate night or day activities, (e.g.,		
Putting on pajamas means going to bed at		
night)		

E1-Science and Technology			
SE Students develop an understanding of the relationships among science, technology, and society.			
SE1 Students develop an understanding of how scientific knowledge and technology are used in making decisions about issues, innovations, and responses to problems			
and			• •
everyday events.			
SE2 Students develop an understand	ling that solving problems involves different v	ways of thinking, perspectives, and curiosity t	hat lead to the exploration of multiple paths
that are analyzed using scientifi	c, technological, and social merits.		
SE3 Students develop an understand	ling of how scientific discoveries and technologies	ogical innovations affect and are affected by o	our lives and cultures.
Grades 3/4	Grades 5/6	Grades 7/8	Grades 9/10
The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an
understanding of how to integrate	understanding of how to integrate	understanding of how to integrate	understanding of how to integrate
scientific knowledge and technology to	scientific knowledge and technology to	scientific knowledge and technology to	scientific knowledge and technology to
address problems by	address problems by	address problems by	address problems by
[3/4] SE1.1 Restating a problem that the	[5/6] SE1.1 Identifying various options	[7/8] SE1.1 Identifying steps in the	[9/10] SE1.1 Identifying ways that a
teacher has presented (L)	and solutions to a problem (L)	problem-solving process (L)	problem can be solved through the use of
			technology (L)
The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an	
understanding that solving problems	understanding that solving problems	understanding that solving problems	The student demonstrates an
involves different ways of thinking,	involves different ways of thinking,	involves different ways of thinking,	understanding that solving problems
perspectives, and curiosity by	perspectives, and curiosity by	perspectives, and curiosity by	involves different ways of thinking,
[2/4] CE2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	IFICI CEC 1 X1 CC 1		perspectives, and curiosity by
[3/4] SE2.1 Identifying a variety of tools	[5/6] SE2.1 Identifying a variety of tools	[7/8] SE2.1 Matching a simple tool to its	[0/40] CF2 4 X1 - (C : 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1
(glue, scissors, etc.) and materials (e.g.,	and materials	function	[9/10] SE2.1 Identifying tools and their
paper, wood, plastic)	The state of the desired state of the state	The sales of decrease standards	purposes (e.g., camera, hammer)
The standard description	The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an	The state of the s
The student demonstrates an	understanding of how scientific	understanding of how scientific	The student demonstrates an
understanding of how scientific	discoveries and technological	discoveries and technological	understanding of how scientific
discoveries and technological innovations affect our lives and society	innovations affect our lives and society	innovations affect our lives and society	discoveries and technological innovations affect our lives and society
1	by	by	by
by	[5/6] SE3.1 Discriminating between	[7/8] SE3.1 Identifying examples of	l by
[3/4] SE3.1 Identifying what materials	human-made and natural objects	technology (e.g., computer, telephones,	[9/10] SE3.1 Describing effects of
found on earth are used for (e.g., a	numan-made and natural objects	electronic games, automobiles)	technology on everyday life (e.g.,
wooden house is made from trees)		ciccionic games, automobiles)	washing machines, fish wheel, snow
wooden nouse is made from trees)			machines)
			macmics)

Early Entry Points for topics/skills first	Early Entry Points for topics/skills first	Early Entry Points for topics/skills first	Early Entry Points for topics/skills first
introduced in Grades 3/4	introduced in Grades 5/6	introduced in Grades 7/8	introduced in Grades 9/10
[3/4] SE2.1 Identifying a variety of tools	Refer to previous grade's ExGLEs and	Refer to previous grade's ExGLEs and	Refer to previous grade's ExGLEs and
(glue, scissors, etc.) and materials (e.g.,	Early Entry Points to teach the	Early Entry Points to teach the	Early Entry Points to teach the
paper, wood, plastic)	prerequisite skills for this grade band.	prerequisite skills for this grade band.	prerequisite skills for this grade band.

Identifies common tools to use for activities, (e.g., straw to drink, spoon to eat, scissors to cut)		
Uses a tool common in their environment such as a spoon to get foodManipulates materialsPerforms a variety of actions with a		
given object (ball, racquet, scooter)Reaches to adult hands to manipulate the environment for them [3/4] SE3.1 Identifying what materials		
found on earth are used for (e.g., a wooden house is made from trees)		
Given a choice of objects the student will identify a variety of materials such as which is wood, plastic, metal, fabric, Responds to or identifies different textures		
Manipulates materials		

F1-Cul	ltural, Social, Personal Pers	pectives, and Science		
SF	Students develop an understandi	ing of the dynamic relationships among scien	tific, cultural, social, and personal perspective	es.
SF1	Students develop an understandi	ing of the interrelationships among individual	s, cultures, societies, science, and technology	<i>'</i> .
SF2	Students develop an understandi understand the world.	ing that some individuals, cultures, and societ	ties use other beliefs and methods in addition	to scientific methods to describe and
SF3	Students develop an understandi	ing of the importance of recording and valida	ting cultural knowledge.	
Grades 3	3/4	Grades 5/6	Grades 7/8	Grades 9/10
The student demonstrates an understanding the dynamic relationships among scientific, cultural, social, and personal perspectives by		The student demonstrates an understanding the dynamic relationships among scientific, cultural, social, and personal perspectives by		The student demonstrates an understanding the dynamic relationships among scientific, cultural social, and personal perspectives by
[3/4] SF1	1.1 Exploring local or traditional nat explain a natural event (L)	[5/6] SF1.1 Exploring local or traditional stories that explain a natural event (L)	[7/8] SF1.1 Exploring local or traditional stories that explain a natural event (L)	[9/10] SF1.1 Exploring local or traditional stories that explain a natural event (L)

No Early Entry Points developed for this ExGLE

G1-His	story and Nature of Science			
SG	Students develop an understandi	ing of the history and nature of science.		
SG1	Students develop an understandi	ng that historical perspectives of scientific ex	planations demonstrate that scientific knowle	edge changes over time, building on prior
	knowledge.			
SG2	Students develop an understandi	ing that the advancement of scientific knowle	edge embraces innovation and requires empir	ical evidence, repeatable investigations,
	logical arguments, and critical re	eview in striving for the best possible explana	ations of the natural world.	
SG3	Students develop an understandi	ing that scientific knowledge is ongoing and	subject to change as new evidence becomes a	vailable through experimental and/or
	observational confirmation(s).			
SG4	Students develop an understandi	ing that advancements in science depend on c	curiosity, creativity, imagination, and a broad	knowledge base.
Grades 3	3/4	Grades 5/6	Grades 7/8	Grades 9/10
The stud	lent demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an
understa	anding of the bases of the	understanding of the bases of the	understanding of the bases of the	understanding of the bases of the
advance	ment of scientific knowledge	advancement of scientific knowledge	advancement of scientific knowledge	advancement of scientific knowledge
by		by	by	by
52/43.00	445		F=/01 GG4 4 3 4 1 1	50/403 GG4 4 3 4 3 4
	1.1 Demonstrating an	[5/6] SG1.1 Using a symbol to represent	[7/8] SG1.1 Making a record of	[9/10] SG1.1 Making a record of
	nding of cause-and-effect (e.g.,	information/data	observations over time (L)	observations over time (L)
	ore water is added to a full glass,			
the water	r will spill out)	The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an	The student demonstrates an
		understanding that advancements in	understanding that advancements in	understanding that advancements in
	lent demonstrates an	science depend on curiosity, creativity,	science depend on curiosity, creativity,	science depend on curiosity, creativity,
	anding that advancements in	imagination, and a broad knowledge	imagination, and a broad knowledge	imagination, and a broad knowledge
	depend on curiosity, creativity,	base by	base by	base by
_	tion, and a broad knowledge		F=101 GG 4 4 4 1	50/407/0004
base by		[5/6] SG2.1 Distinguishing between the	[7/8] SG2.1 Asking questions about the	[9/10] SG2.1 Asking questions about the
[2/4] GG	2111 (6: 6 / 11	natural world and a man-made	natural world (L)	natural world (L)
	2.1 Identifying features in the	environment		
	vorld (e.g., trees, wind, clouds,			
grass, an	imais)			

| Early Entry Points for topics/skills first |
|--|--|--|--|
| introduced in Grades 3/4 | introduced in Grades 5/6 | introduced in Grades 7/8 | introduced in Grades 9/10 |
| [3/4] SG1.1 Demonstrating an | Refer to previous grade's ExGLEs and | Refer to previous grade's ExGLEs and | Refer to previous grade's ExGLEs and |
| understanding of cause-and-effect (e.g., | Early Entry Points to teach the | Early Entry Points to teach the | Early Entry Points to teach the |
| when more water is added to a full | prerequisite skills for this grade band. | prerequisite skills for this grade band. | prerequisite skills for this grade band. |
| glass, the water will spill out) | | | |
| | [5/6] SG1.1 Using a symbol to represent | | |
| Pushes a switch to activate a response | information/data | | |
| such as music, toy | | | |

Aware of what happens when	Matches a picture with an object that	
something is dropped, spilled, turned on	represents a daily activity	
	Chooses object or picture to indicate the	
[3/4] SG2.1 Identifying features in the	desire for a preferred object or activity	
natural world (e.g., trees, wind, clouds,	Responds to objects that represents an	
grass, animals)	activity (e.g., spoon means time to eat)	
	Identifies or responds to plants, animals,	
Matches objects to pictures or photos of	and other people in the environment (e.g.,	
natural items in the environment.	reaches for caregiver, grabs a flower,	
Identifies natural objects given choice	points at a dog)	
of real objects		
Responds to people in their environment		
Touches, looks at objects in the natural		
environment		

Appendix A Glossary

Alternate Assessments are designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities that prevent them from taking the general education assessments with or without accommodations. Students must meet the eligibility criteria as specified in the *Participation Guidelines*.

Access Skills are the very basic, underlying social, motor, or communication skills needed by students to be able to accomplish the content learning standards and may be part of the student's Individualized Education Program's (IEP). Instead of teaching these skills in isolation, they may be embedded within the context of standards-based instructional activities. This allows the student to practice targeted IEP skills while providing access to the general education curriculum. Access skills are not part of the grade level expectations but when used during content-related activities, they meaningfully engage students in the content activities and expose students to new ideas while practicing necessary skills required in the student's IEP.

Age-Appropriate Instruction and Materials – Instruction of students should open up opportunities to access the content standards, not limit participation in the grade level instructional activities. Materials and activities should reflect the chronological age of the student and be consistent with the content, activities, materials, and expected outcomes for all students. Materials may be adapted to provide access for the student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Grade Band – Student's with significant cognitive disabilities are assessed in grade bands: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, and 9-10. The cut scores and proficiency levels are the same for each grade within a grade band.

Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) are specific statements of the knowledge and/or skills that students are expected to demonstrate at each grade level. They serve as checkpoints that monitor progress towards the performance standards and ultimately, the content standards. The grade-level expectations do not replace the performance standards; rather, they serve to clarify the standards. They also serve to define and communicate eligible content, or the range of knowledge and skills from which instruction and the new assessments are designed.

Extended Grade Level Expectations (ExGLEs) are linked to the Performance Standards/Grade Level Expectations. They are measurable statements of what students with significant cognitive disabilities should know and be able to do at grade level. The extended grade level expectations are foundational skills and are less complex than the grade level expectations.

Early Entry Points describe the least complex skills and are prerequisites to the skills being assessed. They provide a range of options at which a student with a disability can access the learning standard at a less complex level. See above for definition of **Access Skills** and their relationship to standards.

Standards

- Achievement Standards are descriptions of a test taker's competency, and Alternate Achievement Standards (AAS) are descriptions of competency for students who take the alternate assessment. There are four components of achievement standards.
 - 1. **Labels** designating the different levels of student achievement. Alaska's proficiency levels are labeled: Advanced, Proficient, Below Proficient, and Far Below Proficient.
 - 2. **Proficiency descriptors** are narrative statements describing student achievement at the different levels of competence useful in determining cut scores.

- 3. **Cut scores** separate the different achievement levels
- 4. **Exemplars** are samples of student work or student test results.
- **Content Standards** are broad statements of what students should know and be able to do as a result of their public school experience.
- **Performance Standards** are aligned to the Content Standards and are measurable statements of what students should know and be able to do in the age spans 5-7, 8-10, 11-14, and 15-18. Within these standards are **strands**, which are clusters of learning standards in the content area organized around a central idea or concept.

Symbolic Levels (as defined by Diane Browder)

- **Symbolic (Abstract):** Uses vocabulary of signs, pictures, words to communicate. Recognizes some sight words, numbers, etc. Some symbols are abstract (e.g., yesterday, happy, 9:00)
- Early Symbolic (Concrete): Beginning to use pictures or other symbols to communicate within a limited vocabulary; primarily concrete symbols (e.g., eat, drink, outside, play, more)
- **Pre-Symbolic:** Communicates with gestures, eye gaze, purposeful moving to object, sounds; communication is purposeful(e.g., holds up cup for drink)
- **Awareness:** May communicate by crying, vocalizing; communication may be difficult to interpret; no clear cause and effect.

Appendix B Comments from the Early Entry Points Development Committee October 2008

In response to concerns about assessing the most involved students with significant cognitive disabilities, several members of the Expanded Levels of Support/Early Entry Points Development Committee had this to say:

My response was that I had worked as a special education aide in a classroom with severely disabled kids and had a number of students who had multiple disabilities. I took it as my job to try whatever I could to establish communication with these children. Sometimes that took the form of tapping or just looking for differences in facial expressions and trying to reproduce these expressions. These kids have a right to an education, and if that just means making them aware of the fact that we can communicate, that is what we need to do. This test can challenge us to explore different ways of communicating and discovering abilities that we might otherwise overlook. -- Dillingham City Schools

What we are doing is giving the student every possible opportunity to respond. -- Yukon Koyukuk Schools

ELOS students often work one-on-one with staff so being in a one-on-one "testing" situation would not be uncomfortable for them. Accommodations used during testing should be ones students are familiar with and have been used throughout the school year (not just during testing). -- Kodiak Island Borough Schools

This assessment should not seem to be harassment by either the student or the teacher. All students, including the 10% of the 1% have the right to be educated and assessed. The teachers should be spending a great deal of time with these students on a daily basis in order to establish a relationship and to develop a method of communicating with the student. It is impossible to determine the cognitive ability of a student with significant motoric disabilities. It is essential that all students are treated as though they can understand and are capable of communicating and learning. The idea of providing the student with a method of communication should not be a new concept at the time of assessment. These students have the right to have a means of communicating on a daily basis. Yes, this is difficult and sometimes expensive but this is one of the primary roles of special educators. It is not okay to just move, feed and change these students and think that we are providing an adequate education. Rather than saying that it does not make sense to test these students and that we are harassing these students by teaching them academic content, we need to seriously address the standards with all students and figure out how we can communicate with these students, how they can communicate with us, and how we can provide a way for these students to access curriculum. -- Anchorage Schools

I don't believe that giving the Alternate Assessment is harassing this population of students, as one participant commented. I do share in the frustration of testing students with severe disabilities who are not capable of passing the Alternate Assessment, and who wouldn't pass even if allowed with the ELOS. I guess for those working with the severely disabled students, the ELOS may be seen more as a "torture" or "harassment" for the teachers. The Alternate Assessment makes teachers accountable by addressing basic functional needs, as well as challenging their students to learn academic skills. The ELOS provides teachers information about students' level of communication and understanding. Of course, there is the argument that teachers should already know this from their daily interactions with the student. Even though it's not "counted" I think it's still a valuable teaching moment and if nothing else, it has the benefit of providing the severely disabled with stimuli and one-on-one interaction with the teacher. I do appreciate the changes to the Alternate Assessment. The standardized format is a great improvement and makes the process much more manageable for teachers than the original alternate assessment portfolios. -- Bering Strait Schools

Note: As a note of clarity, even if students do not earn a proficient score, they do count for performance and participation both for their school and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) when taking the Alternate Assessment (both standard and Expanded Levels of Support test items). Just like within the general education population of students, there is a wide range of abilities, and thus scores and proficiency categories range from far below proficient to advanced. This applies to students taking ELOS items. ELOS items are not grade level content, but are prerequisite skills to that content to provide access to the content, so the students receive scores in the far below proficient category, but they most certainly do count for performance and participation. –Aran Felix, EED